

## Claims

The claims are amended as follows:

16-24. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a compression unit to generate encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and perform a compression process for each of the divided regions;

a first setting unit to set one or a plurality of aspect ratios and one or a plurality of sizes corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

a second setting unit to set one or a plurality of image regions within the input image, having ~~at least one of~~ at least one aspect ratio and at least one size set by the first setting unit, and to set boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

a storage to store the encoded data generated by the compression unit; and

an expansion unit to expand the encoded data stored in the storage.

36. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the second setting unit sets an image region that is set by the second setting unit as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process of the compression unit.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera comprising:

an imaging unit to pick up an image; and

an image processing apparatus comprising:

a compression unit to generate encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and perform a compression process for each of the divided regions;

a first setting unit to set one or a plurality of aspect ratios and one or a plurality of sizes corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

a second setting unit to set one or a plurality of image regions within the input image, having at least one ~~of~~ aspect ratio and at least one size set by the first setting unit, and to set boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

a storage to store the encoded data generated by the compression unit; and

an expansion unit to expand the encoded data stored in the storage, wherein the compression unit of the image processing apparatus carries out the compression process with respect to an input image that is picked up by the imaging unit.

39. (Original) The electronic camera as claimed in claim 38, wherein the second setting unit sets an image region that is set by the second setting unit as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process of the compression unit.

40. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

(a) generating encoded data by dividing an input image into a plurality of divided regions and performing a compression process for each of the divided regions;

(b) setting ~~at least one of~~ at least one aspect ratios and one or a plurality of sizes corresponding to a display unit of an external device;

(c) setting at least one image region within the input image, having ~~at least one of~~ at least one aspect ratios and at least one size set by (b), and setting boundaries of the divided regions subject to the compression process of the compression unit so as to match boundaries of the image regions;

(d) storing the generated encoded data in a storage; and

(e) expanding the encoded data stored in the storage.

41. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein setting at least one image region sets an image region as a Region Of Interest (ROI) of the compression process.

42. (Cancelled)